

Etymology

Sanskrit (Saṃskṛta) is an ancient language belonging to the Indo-Aryan branch of speeches, sacred in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. Almost every later language spoken and written in Asia and Europe, except those of Chinese and Germanic origin, is actually its derivate or influenced by it.

Term "Sanskrit" (saṃskṛta) stands for “adorned, cultivated, purified”.

It is comprised of the two words: "samyak", meaning "entirely", and "krit", meaning "done".

Why is Sanskrit important beside having wide cultural impact? It is important because it was the first systematical articulation of the human thought. Moreover, it was constructed by the people who used deep meditation to connect with an essence of the being. The construction was not just a simple assignment of the related meaning to the words. Letters represent exact syllables given by the "Devas" (Gods), used for mutual communication, priorly generated by the Brahma Itself. This "Devas" or "Gods" remind me of a highly advanced extraterrestrial specie.

Over a centuries, across array of countries, number of scripts have been used to write the Sanskrit: Vedic, of Rigveda texts, is an oldest known form dating back to around one and half thousand years BCE. Subsequently, around 500 y. BCE, it was refined and standardized into the classical system of Aṣṭādhyāyī by Panini, an Indian scholar, today considered to be father of the linguistics. Two most famous Sanskrit narratives, the Mahābhārata (Bhagavad Gita) and the Rāmāyaṇa (Life of Rama), were produced using an Epic Sanskrit structurally resembling an antique Iranian, early Avestan Gathas and Greek Iliad, made by Homer, having metre and rhythm as their prominent components.

Sanskrit contain(ed) what we nowadays refer to as ordinal and cardinal numbers but not yet zero. Zero was first recorded in a 7th century temple in Sambor, on Mekong river, Cambodia and in a temple at Gwalior, India, in the 9th century.

Otherwise, number zero source could be in ancient Mesopotamia, some scholars say, dating around 4.000 years ago. The Mayans used a zero marker in their calendars. Although the formal study of language is considered to start with the Panini in 5th century, Sumerian and Egyptian inscriptions are the oldest found.

These early counting systems only saw the zero as an empty separator not as a number with its own unique characteristics and values.

The Bakhshali manuscript is an ancient Indian mathematical text, written on birch bark, dated 224–383 AD or 885–993 AD according to the recent study. It contains the earliest known use of a zero symbol which was depicted using a dot as a placeholder ("shunya-bindu", meaning: dot of an empty space). "Shunya" alone means nothing, the void.

Brahmagupta (598 – 668 AD) was an Indian mathematician who first gave rules for computing with zero and introduced the concept of a negative numbers. He made really impressive astrophysical discovery for that time, much before era of modern telescopes came, proposing gravity as an attractive force using the term "gurutvākarṣaṇam". "Gurutvāka" means "mass", while "sana" stands for "to acquire". It can be translated as "to acquire mass". How? By the force of the gravity.

Other contemporary cultures had their own equivalents regarding negative numbers, independently developed, like Greek counting table from Salamis, the Salamis Tablet, dated to 300 years BCE and mathematical texts from the period of the Chinese Han Dynasty. I mean, cultural and scientific discoveries could have sometimes developed individually or slightly preceeding each other without an influence.

Sanskrit holds together many mutual phonological properties with Proto Indo-European language family but it has a larger set of recognizable phonemes.

Semantics

"Om̐, asato mā sat gamaya
tamaso mā jyotir gamaya
mrityormā amrtam gamaya."

"Om, lead me from a delusion to the Truth,
Lead me from a darkness to the Light,
Lead me from a death to an Immortality."

This is the Shanti (calmness) mantra, from the Upanishad, used to open mental gateways leading to the higher layers of the consciousness by removing physical, spiritual and internal obstacles which blur our astral vision.

Om is the sacred Hindu syllable pronounced "aum". This ancient Sanskrit letter first appeared in the Vedas. It is used as the most holy mantra in Hinduism and Buddhism considered to represent the primordial sound of the Universe, the most fundamental of all vibrations, the sound of the emptiness itself. Its dictum, made in the form of chanting, invokes the spirit essence of the Being which connects with us through Atman or our inner-self immediately after we have removed all the mental obstacles achieving the state of a perfect tranquility or a divine balance.

The word “sat” stands for - truth, reality and existence.

Opposite, "asat" stands for - deception, unreality and non-existence.

The word “tamas” stands for - darkness.

The word “jyoti” stands for - light.

The word “mrity” stands for - death.

The word “amrtam” stands for - immortality.

Notice the striking similarity between Croatian words "tama" and "umrijeti (smrt)" and Sanskrit "tamas" and "mrity". It is obvious that Croatian language, probably other Slavic languages as well, at least partially, arise from an ancient Vedic roots.